

Filed for intro on 02/09/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House No. HB1009  
By Ridgeway

AN ACT to designate that segment of State Route 114 in Henry County as the "Governor Isham G. Harris Highway".

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain public highways to honor the memory of those distinguished citizens who played significant roles in Tennessee's panoramic history; and

WHEREAS, born in 1818, Isham Green Harris moved to Paris, Tennessee at the age of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, later, he moved his parents to a home near Mansfield in Henry County; the Harris house still stands today; and

WHEREAS, an ingenious and highly successful attorney, Isham G. Harris was elected to serve in the Tennessee Senate in 1847; and

WHEREAS, in 1849, he was elected to serve in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress and was subsequently re-elected in 1851; and

WHEREAS, as one of Tennessee's representatives to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Harris established an impeccable record of proficient public service, and his ability and acumen were rewarded when he was named presidential elector for the state at large in 1856; and

WHEREAS, in 1857, the good people of Tennessee expressed their abiding faith in the integrity and wisdom of Isham G. Harris by electing him Governor of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as the first governor to hail from West Tennessee, Isham G. Harris distinguished himself as an astute manager of assets and an inspirational leader of people; he was subsequently re-elected to this important post in 1859 and again in 1861; and

WHEREAS, Governor Harris also held the distinction of being Tennessee's only Confederate Governor during the War Between the States; and

WHEREAS, during the War Between the States, Governor Harris also served with industry and dedication as a volunteer aide-de-camp for several Confederate generals, including Albert Sidney Johnson, Braxton Bragg and Joseph E. Johnston; he was serving with General Johnston when the general courageously gave his life in defense of the South at the Battle of Shiloh; and

WHEREAS, following the war, Governor Harris was elected to represent Tennessee in the Senate of the United States in 1876, and continued to serve with probity and intelligence in that august office until his death in Washington, D.C. in 1897; and

WHEREAS, presently there is a state marker, erected by the Tennessee Historical Commission, on State Route 114 in Mansfield; this marker describes a skirmish involving Governor Harris while he was en route to visit his family in Paris in 1864; and

WHEREAS, State Route 114 begins in Henry County approximately one (1) mile from the Harris family home near Mansfield and extends southward, reaching its terminus at U.S. Highway 64 near the Shiloh National Military Park; and

WHEREAS, because of the historical significance of Isham G. Harris' bountiful life in public service, the Harris' family tradition in Henry County, and the proximity of State Route 114 to many of the artifacts of our proud southern heritage, including the War Between the States, the Henry County Historical Commission, in conjunction with many other prominent citizens of the community, has requested that State Route 114 be named in Governor Harris' honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to accommodate the wishes of citizens on local matters, whenever it is feasible to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, that segment of State Route 114 located in Henry County is hereby designated as the "Governor Isham G. Harris Highway" in honor of this peerless gentleman and public servant who began the proud tradition of exemplary governors hailing from West Tennessee.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating State Route 114 in Henry County as the "Governor Isham G. Harris Highway".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.